

**Montessori School of Pensacola**  
**Early Childhood**  
**Pandemic Policy**  
**Updated May 25, 2021**

MSP will monitor local and state government, CDC and the Pandemic Severity Index guidelines for child care centers and schools regarding closures and social distancing recommendations. In addition, MSP will undertake the following practices:

- Parents will be asked screening questions before a child is permitted to enter a classroom. MSP reserves the right to require a child be tested, based on the answers to the screening questions. MSP is required to notify the Escambia County Health Department (ECHD) if a child is referred for testing.
- Any child with a confirmed positive test result may not be on campus as long as is deemed necessary by the Escambia County Health Department.
- MSP will notify parents and staff of any confirmed cases, so that they may be vigilant in monitoring their child's health.
- MSP will comply with any and all state or local health department guidelines regarding school closures, cleaning and sanitization practices, reopening, and re-entry of students and/or staff who have tested positive.
- MSP will utilize School Cues (email and text) as the primary method of communicating school closures and other information. In the event of an extended closure, we encourage parents and teachers to utilize email to keep in touch.
- MSP reserves the right to close the school at any time that such action is deemed appropriate in order to minimize the transmission of disease and ensure the safety of children and staff.
- Should another stay-at-home order go into effect, the MSP Early Childhood program will remain open.

**Signs and Information**

Signs are posted at all entrances. Everyone entering a building must read them. They give clear and precise information on Covid-19, its symptoms, when not to enter the building, risk factors, information on our daily health checks, and other conditions of exclusion of students.

Additional signage will be posted throughout the buildings including handwashing procedural illustrations in each classroom and restrooms.

## **Family Responsibility**

Parents must keep their child home if showing signs of illness.

The child must stay home for an additional 48 hours after the fever is gone and no fever reducing medication has been given.

Any child who is vomiting, has a sore throat, diarrhea or fever of greater than 100.4, will be sent home and may not return until the fever is gone for 48 hours and no fever reducing medication has been given.

If a child becomes ill or exhibits any signs of COVID-19 while at school, they will be isolated until they can be picked up. Timely pick up of an ill child is required. Emergency contact(s) must be available and kept up-to-date.

Families are asked to review and follow the CDC information and guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Families are expected to report any known exposure to Covid-19 positive individuals to the school and follow established COVID-19 protocol.

Anyone, other than the parent, who is dropping off the child, must be able to answer the screening questions accurately on behalf of the parent on a daily basis.

If a child is asked to go home because of COVID-19 like symptoms that are unusual for them, any siblings of theirs may also be sent home.

If a parent keeps one child home for COVID-19 like symptoms that are unusual for them, the sibling may be asked to stay home as well.

Parent are to practice our handwashing procedure at home with their child (wet hands, apply soap and rub for 20 seconds and rinse for 10 seconds).

It is critical that children in Primary classrooms be established in their bathroom independence.

In certain circumstances (such as warming-in for Toddler/Entry classes) you may see other adults in the classroom/on campus. CDC guidelines (social distancing and mask-wearing) will be required.

## **Masks**

MSP follows CDC and AAP guidelines for children 2 years-old and up to wear masks. Entry and Primary students must come to school wearing a mask and must have an additional mask at school. (Please include a neck strap). Masks with a minimum of two layers are required, with three layers being recommended.

Masks will be worn by all students in Primary classrooms.

Children in our Entry program are required to wear masks when arriving at school. Entry teachers may alter mask-wearing policies for individual students as needed.

CDC resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

### **Arrival/Dismissal**

Children will be received at designated arrival locations by a staff member wearing a mask.

Parents dropping off and picking up their child on campus are required to wear masks.

Staff will sign children in and out each day.

No visitor or parent will be allowed in the classrooms, while school is in session. If a parent needs to enter the office, they will need to wear a mask.

Physical distancing guidelines will be followed during arrival and departure times. This may mean families need to remain in their vehicles until proper distancing can be followed.

Each child will have their temperature taken daily, at a designated arrival location. Temperatures may be taken at other times throughout the day.

Children will wash their hands upon entering the building.

### **Groups and Outside time**

Group sizes will be smaller than usual. Every effort will be made to keep groups separate, as much as possible. Each group will have mixed ages. All curriculum areas will be in each class space.

Groups will have to combine at the end of the day for Extended Care.

Each group will have its own designated classroom space and outside area.

Activities will be held outside whenever possible.

Outdoor space will rotate so that children receive a variety of play opportunities each week. Equipment will be sanitized as required.

Physical distancing will be practiced, modeled, and encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. Staff will model and instruct as needed, with an understanding of the limitations of physical distancing with young children.

No field trips will be scheduled.

### **Staff**

Staff will be trained on all the new health procedures.

Staff will explain and model safety, physical distancing, handwashing, and hygiene procedures to students in an age-appropriate manner.

Staff members will have their temperatures taken daily.

No staff member may report to work if showing symptoms of Covid-19 and/or have had known exposure.

If soap and water are not available in an area, a supply of hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol will be used. CDC recommends rubbing for at least 30 seconds to be most effective.

Masks will be worn by all staff.

Staff will be instructed not to touch their mask throughout the day and take it home for washing daily. Multiple masks will be provided for staff by Administration.

Any staff member showing signs of illness will be isolated until their departure.

The school will report to families any known exposure to Covid-19 positive individuals while respecting the privacy of the individual.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have Covid-19:

Child:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Child MIS-C (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome)

- (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome)
- . Fever
- . Abdominal pain
- . Diarrhea
- . Neck pain
- . Rash
- . Bloodshot eyes
- . Feeling extra tired

Adult

- . Fever or chills
- . Cough
- . Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- . Fatigue

- . Muscle or body aches
- . Headache
- . New loss of taste or smell
- . Sore throat
- . Congestion or runny nose
- . Nausea or vomiting
- . Diarrhea

Staff will be asked screening questions before they are permitted to enter the building. MSP reserves the right to require an employee be tested, based on the answers to the screening questions. MSP is required to notify the Escambia County Health Department if an employee is referred for testing.

Any person in a high-risk population is encouraged to stay home, not work in childcare settings and avoid entering the school buildings.

### **Working with Children**

There will be regular and frequent hand washing with soap and water for children and staff.

The sharing of supplies will be minimized.

All meals and snacks will be in the classroom or outside weather permitting.

During naptime in Toddler/Entry and rest time in Primary, children will be spread out as much as possible.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

All surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected as required. At the end of the day, more extensive cleaning and disinfecting will take place.

Adequate cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be maintained.

Bathrooms and sinks will be sanitized after each use.

CDC cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be followed to sanitize classrooms and playgrounds.